Two-Party System

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/the-two-party-system-definition-advantages-disadvantages.html#/lesson>

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are organized in groups that seek to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the political system.
* There are three major types of party systems in the world:

-one-party

-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

-multi-party

* The ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has a two-party system, which means two parties \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the government.
* Which 2 parties dominate the government? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* What are 2 other parties that exist in the U.S.? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4 major ways that the two-party system helps promote public good:

1. Help provide order: provide political information in an understandable and convenient manner.
2. Stable balance by allowing for varied interests & opinions
3. Discourages sudden shifts in political trends which can threaten government stability.
4. Encourage political participation.

3 disadvantages of the two-party system

1. Politicians can be easily influenced by money given to them by Special-Interest groups.
2. Politicking- boasting between political parties, seems more about who is winning public opinion polls and less about real issues.
3. Week organizational structure that involves only a small portion of the population. Disagreements within the party show a lack of unity. This leads to lower voter allegiance, interest in politics & voter turnout.

Third Parties

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJTPPxF3xRI>

* Why could 2016 have been the year of the third-party candidate?

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Third party candidates:

Libertarian= \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Green= \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Duverger’s law:

-Countries with winner-take-all elections, like the U.S., two major parties are bound to develop.

-Voters will desert the weakest party for more viable options.

-Overtime, weaker parties are squeezed out, leaving behind two major parties.

-Voters often vote against the candidate they don’t like versus the candidate who shares their views.

Institutional barriers:

-It’s difficult for 3rd party to get attention= less votes

-Debates increase national profile, but only Democrats & Republicans qualify.

-Candidates need 15% support in the polls to participate- 3rd parties often times aren’t included in the polls.

-They don’t have enough money:

-R/D have more sophisticated fundraising operations.

 -Need 5% of the votes of the last election in order to qualify for federal money.

* In what ways might a 3rd party candidate feel like they’ve won even if they fail to win the presidential election?

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* Why is voting for a minor or third-party candidate often considered a “wasted vote”?

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Third Party Examples

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Election Year |   |   |   |   |
| Third Party Candidate Name |   |   |   |   |
| Party |   |   |   |   |
| Which party (R or D) did the 3rd Party Candidate take votes from?  |   |   |   |   |
| Which party & candidate won the election? |   |   |   |   |